



COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0509

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding in the amount of \$2,000,000 for the Stockton Youth Workforce Development Program in the fiscal year 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

The project sponsor for this project is the City of Stockton, and the project is located at 425 N. El Dorado Street, Stockton 95202.

The City of Stockton (City) hopes to increase the field of young, qualified professionals in Stockton who are prepared to enter the future market. In particular, the City plans to link at-risk and/or high-need youth to career pathways with significant growth potential. To do this, the City will work with trusted local community organizations with proven track records to expand access to workforce development programs, specifically focused on disadvantaged youth.

The City does not administer traditional workforce development programs via internal departments and/or City staff. As such, the City believes the best path forward is to identify trusted local community organizations with proven track records to carry out a sizeable portion of this work. The City intends to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) that will ask respondents to offer workforce development programs. Because the future programs are dependent on the outcome of the RFP process, the City cannot say which focus areas will be worked on at this time. Emphasis will be placed on programs that have an established track record of success, particularly with disadvantaged youth. Examples of current workforce programs supported by the City that align with this program's goals include a solar installation training program administered by GRID Alternatives and an EV bus mechanic program administered through San Joaquin Regional Transit District (both grant-funded).

The City will require in its RFP that sub-grantees consider what wraparound services will be needed for youth seeking to participate in the workforce development programs. Such services could include low-cost daycare, transportation stipends, workshops for personal and professional development (ex. job readiness, college readiness, and how to manage personal finances, etc.), and bi-weekly mentor meetings. Preference

will be given to those sub-grantees who demonstrate a full understanding of the wraparound services needed for Stockton's youth.

The City will ensure that sub-grantees pay a wage above the state minimum per the Youth Workforce Development Program requirements. In the RFP, the City will encourage respondents to offer higher wages so that participants will be financially incentivized to complete the program. The City cannot give an anticipated length of time that the youth will be serving in the program because that is dependent on the future programs that emerge from the RFP process, as well as any restrictions that may apply from the Federal government.

Funding for this project is a good use of taxpayer funds, as it would have significant direct and indirect benefits for the local community, including increased wages, new jobs, filling unmet workforce demands, and increased tax revenue. Stockton has continued to struggle with funding many of its top priorities, including workforce development. Now, facing the repercussions of the pandemic, the City is in an even more precarious situation which has tightened funds even further. It is only through outside investments that Stockton will be able to recuperate and catch up with state and national workforce trends. The future of Stockton relies on our ability to create lucrative, stable, and sustainable industries to retain and attract talent.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry McNerney", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress